37

POL 23-9 GREECE

249

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

12-3

CONFIDENTIAL

Athens 4741 4-21-67

Action
NEA
Info
SS
GPM
SP
SC
SAH
L
H
EUR
IO
P
NSC
INR
NIC
AID
O
SY
PER
FBO
OPR
OG
SCA
SCS
RSR

NNNNVV GMA431VV ATA550
00 RUEHC RUEKDA RUFPBK RUFRC
DE RUQMAT 4741A 111@820
ZNY CCCCC
O P 21@@@Z APR 67
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUFPBK/CINCEUR PRIORITY
RUFRC/CINCSOUTH
RUEKDA/SECDEF
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4741

JOINT EMBASSY/DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/DC/IR 20963
BY W 1967 APR 21 AM 3:51 MAY 1967
DATE

1. AIR ATTACHE INFORMED BY ARMY BRIG. GEN. PATAKO OF GEN SPANDIDAKIS' OFFICE THAT SPANDIDAKIS EXPECTED ASSUME PRIME MINISTERSHIP (ALTHO NAVAL SOURCE INDICATED IT COULD BE AVGHERIS) AND MEETINGS NOW IN PROCESS TO DETERMINE WHAT OTHER MILITARY WILL PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED BY NOON FRIDAY; IERAX II HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. BOTH GEORGE AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU ARRESTED AS WELL AS EDA LEADER GLEZOS AND KKE COVERT ACTION LEADER

LINDOS. SOURCE EXPECTS SITUATION ATHENS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL BY NOON SATURDAY. REPORTS KING IS IN COMPLETE CHARGE AND HAS GIVEN BLESSING TO MILITARY ACTION; TAKEOVER HAS BEEN BLOODLESS AND SITUATION UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL. GREEK PENTAGON HEAVILY GUARDED BY ABOUT BATTALION RAIDING FORCES; AT LEAST 12 HEAVY TANKS SURROUND BUILDING. SOURCE VOLUNTEERED GREECE CONTINUES "STRONGER" THAN EVER IN NATO AND IN CLOSENESS TO U.S. NO INFO YET ON WHAT TRIGGERED ACTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

1

[redacted]

Pre-Campaign Incidents

An important pre-campaign incident which accelerated the drift away from Caramanlis in Northern Greece was the Lambrakis episode of last May. More important than the incident itself in influencing the elections, however, was its aftermath which brought about alleged ERE attempts to smear the judges investigating the crime. The implications of the arrest and jailing of four top police officials connected with the affair also had a profound effect. Before the elections even many ERE supporters were convinced that the government had played a major role in the unsavory happenings of May 22. Another important pre-campaign incident, particularly in winning votes from EDA, was Papandreou's success in bringing about the fall of the Pipinelis Government in order to obtain election conditions on his own terms. Finally, Caramanlis' moral victory over the Queen regarding the advisability of visiting England, appeared to have had less impact than the rumors that the Palace had become strongly anti-Caramanlis.

The Campaign

Papandreou's opening campaign speech in Thessaloniki on October 13 provided an indication how the voters were reacting to the man and the campaign issues. The large crowd he drew reacted enthusiastically to his words about governmental dishonesty, democracy, educational reform and promises of tax relief and wage increases. One week earlier, Caramanlis drew a crowd one third smaller in size and considerably less enthusiastic. Caramanlis annoyed many here when he spoke darkly of revising the Constitution and that after the elections he would "take care" of Papandreou.

[redacted]

Mechanical Factors

[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED

2. CAS REPORTS THAT COL NICHALAOS BRUMAS FORMER SENIOR KYP PRESENTLY COMMANDER KEY REGIMENT IN ATHENS WAS ARRESTED EARLY THIS MORNING. ALSO HAVE REPORT LT. GEN. PAPADATOS, CMDR ASDEN WAS SOUGHT FOR ARREST BY MILITARY DETAIL; WAS NOT AT HOME. DETAIL CUT TELEPHONE WIRES. APPARENTLY PAPADATOS NOW BEING SOUGHT FOR ARREST.
TALBOT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 4:00 AM, APR 21.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA 4:00 AM, APR 21.

AUTHENTICATION